Describe two features of the monarchy in Elizabethan England. (4 marks)

- Declare war or peace
- Grants titles / land to people
- Elizabeth could make new laws with Parliaments advice – she gave the final assent.
- Led the court
- Made decisions on issues of law

Explain why Elizabeth faced opposition to her religious settlement in the years 1558-1569. You may use the following in your answer:

- The vestments controversy (Special clothing for priests)
- The revolts of the Northern Earls (1569)

You must also include information of your own. (12 marks)

Religious settlement: 3 parts: Act of Supremacy, Act of Uniformity and Royal Injunctions [give some detail on this]

- All members of the Clergy (priests, bishops) had to swear an oath of loyalty to Elizabeth as head of the Church as part of the Act of Supremacy – many had been Catholic, most of the 8000 priests made this pledge, bishops not so easy to win over.
- 1 bishop agreed to make the oath - the other 27 had to be replaced (loyal to the Pope)
- Vestments – Puritans – extreme / radical protestants – didn’t believe priests were special, so should not wear special clothing. Elizabeth disagreed – priests were special, all of the clergy by 1565 wore what Elizabeth told them to, e.g. on special feast days therefore demonstrates the Puritans were not easily in favour of the religious settlement because it went against their beliefs that people were ‘special’.
- November 1569 – Earls of Northumberland and Westmorland rebelled against Elizabeth. They were Catholic, and angry at losing their power and influence in court / government / monarchy with the religious settlement - it favoured protestantism. Wanted to overthrow / depose Elizabeth and put Mary Queen of Scots on the throne. Plan was to marry her to the Duke of Norfolk and then she would be restored as Queen of England when Elizabeth was deposed – the Earls only got as far south as Leeds, as Robert Dudley informed court and soldiers were sent to settle the dispute. Catholic threat largely continued as long as Mary was alive, as she was seen as the legitimate queen to them.


You may use the following in your answer:

- The crucifix controversy

Explain why Mary, Queen of Scots was executed in 1587. You may use the following in your answer:

- The papal bull of excommunication (1570)
- The Babington Plot (1586)

You must also include information of your own. (12 marks)

Papal Bull – message from the Pope – in this case, Elizabeth was being ‘excommunicated’ by the Pope, meaning she could not speak to God; Pope was promoting the need for Mary (scots) to be on the throne of England, and also England was a Protestant nation. This led to Mary’s execution – she was supported by the Pope, and led to other plots, e.g. Ridolfi in 1571, Throckmorton 1583

Babington Plot – 1586 – the plot was to overthrow Elizabeth and have Mary (scots) on the throne. Babington was plotting with Philip the II and the Pope and the Duke of Guise. Restore Catholicism.

Parliament – new law – Act of the preservation of the Queens safety – to execute Mary if evidence was found that Mary was involved in plots. Walsingham – spy master – finds coded letters – Mary is implicated, and blamed.


You may use the following in your answer:

- Grammar schools
- Universities

You must also include information of your own. (16 marks + 4 SPAG)

‘Great progress’ – more education for all? Literacy rate only went up by 10% in this time, so can disagree.

Female school students did not have access to as much education as males even by the end of the period.

Agree: Grammar schools – scholarships provided to poorer children to have an education - boys ages 10-14. Education was important and every was deserving of their education. Learnt subjects like Latin, French, Greek, philosophy. Protestants agreed – bible had to be read, so more children needed to go to school. Agree

Universities – went aged 14-15; only 2 universities (Oxford and Cambridge) only an option if you were rich and male. DISAGREE

Agree: Increase in trade – so more people needed to be education in maths / numeracy
Petty schools – run privately for rich students in their homes – attended by the gentry, rich craftsmen – effectively a private tutor.

Poor children – parish church schools – free to students

‘Entertainment continued to be very violent during Elizabethan time.’ How far do you agree? Explain your answer. Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Cock-fighting
- Theatres

You must also include information of your own. (16 marks + 4 SPAG)

Very violent = always resulting in harm / fighting / physical violence / damage

Wrestling – men of all classes took part in public wrestling matches with people gambling on the outcome.

Cockfighting – cockerels attacked each other in arenas, violent act – cockerels would be harmed / die in the process. People would gamble on the outcome, if the outcome was disagreeable - people would fight over this.

Theatres – Red Lion and the Globe – plays were popular past-times – range of stories from murders to comedies, so not always violent in the entertainment. New theatres built as this was popular, and all social classes went along.

Tennis – competitive sport; Fishing; wrestling; music parties; bear baiting

Explain why Mary Queen of Scots was a danger to Elizabeth I in the years 1568-1587.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The Duke of Norfolk
- The Babington Plot

You must also use information of your own. (12 marks)

Mary Queen of Scots –

Duke of Norfolk to marry Mary and depose Elizabeth, restore Catholicism to England. This was planned by the Northern Earls; it failed as Robert Dudley told Court, Norfolk was arrested and imprisoned and the Earls gave up.

Babington Plot – describe what happened in the plot – this made Mary more dangerous because the Duke of Guise could invade England, and therefore murder Elizabeth and make Mary queen of England and England Catholic again. Babington was Catholic – wrote to Mary in July 1586 about a conspiracy, Walsingham found the letters – letters show Elizabeth’s life was in danger from the French, the Spanish, the Pope, The Northern Earls

Other Plots- Ridolfi, Throckmorton, legitimacy of Mary’s claim over Elizabeth’s, religion / religious settlement.

Parliament – new law – Act of the preservation of the Queens safety – to execute Mary if evidence was found that Mary was involved in plots. Walsingham – spy master – finds coded letters – Mary is implicated, and blamed.

‘Religion caused the decline in Anglo-Spanish relations 1567-1580.’ How far do you agree?

Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Francis Drake
- The Netherlands.

You must also use information of your own. (16 marks + 4 SPAG)

Agree: Religious rivalry: Philip II backed by the Pope saw Protestantism as a threat to the authority of the Catholic faith. Spain was Catholic, and there was a threat of invasion by Philip II, as he backed the claim of Mary Queen of Scots to the throne (legitimacy) and supported the plots – Northern Earls, Ridolfi.

Disagree: Netherlands: had been controlled by Spain since the early 15th century, but during the reformation many Dutch people became Protestant. The Duke of Alba from Spain had carried out a brutal campaign to stamp out Protestants and bring back Catholicism. This angered many in England in Elizabeth’s government, as they saw this act as a threat to Protestantism in England. Elizabeth responded by allowing Dutch rebel ships (the Seabeggars) safe passage in English ports. Provided financial support to those fighting the Spanish, e.g. John Casimir. Drake was encouraged to attack Spanish shipping.

Disagree: Drake: a privateer / merchant – raided Spanish ships and colonies in the New World. 1572 – Drake attacked ships and got away with £40,000 in Spanish silver, making Philip furious. By 1580 Drake (and other privateers) had stolen so much treasure that Spain was bankrupt, and Philip had to use warfare to stop Elizabeth and restore his power in Europe.

Explain why Elizabeth colonised Virginia. You may use the following in your answer:

- Improvements in ships
- Wealth

You must use information of your own. (12 marks)

Any from these:

Improvements in ships – ships / galleons had bigger sails, were faster and more manoeuvrable, as well as possessing greater firepower if attacked to be protected from pirates.

Wealth – less dependence of Spain, France and Italy for imported goods if it could produce them in Virginia and ship them back to sell in the UK. Huge rewards for the colonists. Those who invested in the colonisation were persuaded it would bring great financial reward by Walter Raleigh – gentry were prepared to invest.

Virginia – a great base to attack the Spanish colonies / settlements in the New world. This would provide considerable loot / booty to sell back in England and make a profit. It would demonstrate to the Indian tribes that the English were better alternative to the Spanish as rulers too.
Explain why Philip II had decided, by the end of 1585, to prepare an Armada to invade England.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Francis Drake
- The Netherlands.

You must also use information of your own. (12 marks)

Treaty of Nonsuch in August 1585 with the Dutch Protestant rebels (Netherlands) – made war with Spain more likely. England would pay for an army of 7400 English soldiers led by Dudley, and fight the Spanish if a war happened.

Mary Queen of Scots – legitimate queen, would restore Catholicism to England, wanted Elizabeth deposed so she could be the queen. Had supported the Throckmorton and Ridolfi plots, and the Northern Earls.

Francis Drake – by 1585 he had stolen in different raids over £400,000 in Spanish silver and gold, along with other privateers. The Spanish government in the Netherlands was bankrupt as a result of this – couldn’t pay an army. Philip furious, needs to restore his position of power there. Drake had been knighted by Elizabeth, and this demonstrated her hostility towards Spain’s commercial interest in Europe / New World. Showed she delighted in the financial losses of Spain by the privateers, again angering Philip to want to restore his power and influence.

‘Politics was the most important cause of the decline in Anglo-Spanish relations 1570-1580.’ How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- Privateers
- The Netherlands

You must also use information of your own. (16 marks + 4 SPAG)

Agree: 1576: Pacification of Ghent – war was unaffordable for Spain, troops not paid, resulting in the Spanish Fury. 17 Dutch provinces joined together to demand the Spanish to be forced to leave the Netherlands.

Disagree: Religious rivalry: Philip II backed by the Pope saw Protestantism as a threat to the authority of the Catholic faith. Spain was Catholic, and there was a threat of invasion by Philip II, as he backed the claim of Mary Queen of Scots to the throne (legitimacy) and supported the plots – Northern Earls, Ridolfi.

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‘Native American resistance was to blame for the failure of the Virginia colonies 1558-1588.’ How far do you agree? Explain your answer.

You may use the following in your answer:

- The voyage to Virginia
- Wingina

You must also use information of your own. (16 marks + 4 SPAG)

Native American resistance: in 1586, angered by the diseases they had brought, Algonquian Chief Wingina led and attack on the colonists. Other Indian tribes who were suspicious of the English and angered by their continual demands for food, also attacked between 1585-1586. Wingina’s attack was beaten off but led to crisis in the first expedition, forcing the colonists to abandon Roanoke. It is possible the 2nd expedition was wiped out by an attack by the Indians led by Chief Powhatan. Alternatively, and attack may have led to some of the settlers becoming slaves or being assimilated into local Indian tribes, the mystery remains today.

The voyage: ships left too late in the year to reach Virginia in time to plant crops. One of the five ships let in sea water from a leak, ruining the food it was carrying. Unable to provide food for themselves, the colonists were overly reliant on the Indians, and many simply just abandoned the colony by 1586. The second ‘lost’ colony may have struggled to feed itself, making the colonists dependent on food from Indian tribes.

Poor leadership: Richard Grenville was the leader of the first expedition, and his temper meant he did not often agree with the governor of the colony Ralph Lane. (Raleigh was not allowed to go to Virginia as Elizabeth needed him in Court with her). Poor leadership meant that those involved in both expeditions had little direction or purpose. Therefore it may explain why the first colony was abandoned by 1586, and that the second colony was discovered to be abandoned by 1590.